

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, March 21, 2005 at 4:30pm in the Board of Works Room at City Hall.

Present at said meeting were Paula Woods, Mike Dana, Leon Trachtman, and Attorney John Sorensen. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Chris Foley, Brenda Lorenz, Brian Tunis, Lee Booth, and Cheryl Kolb represented the Department. Council members Gil Satterly and Ann Hunt were present. Absent were Park Board members Garnet Peck, Nancy Offutt, and Council member Gerry Keen.

Paula convened the Board at 4:35 pm.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the February 24 meeting. Mike motioned the minutes be approved as presented. Leon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Superintendent – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing.
- Joe noted an error he made in reporting the Earth Day Eco-convergence as being 5/21/05, De-trash the Wabash Day. It will actually take place on 4/22/05, Earth Day.

Assistant Superintendent – Pennie reported on the following:

- Reported she and Tom James attended the Playground Safety Institute for recertification training last week. Requirements of the class included having the material read before the start of the class, which is comprised of two days of intense class work with the third day reserved for the test. This was the fourth time for taking the class, noting recertification takes place every three years. Test results are expected in 4 to 6 weeks.
- Reported the first softball meeting for the Men's League is tomorrow night, March 22, at 7:00pm and Coed League is meeting Wednesday, March 23 at 7:00pm
- Noted Pony League is preparing the Arni Cohen South Field for their use. Practice for them will begin in April. They will be using the field on Tuesday and Friday per an arrangement made through Bob Nicholson, Softball Coordinator.

Parks – Lee reported on the following:

- Noted the trail and playground inspections were available.
- Work continues on new trails in Celery Bog Nature Area.
- Preparation of equipment for the summer is completed.
- The Riverside Skating Rink has been de-iced.
- All parks for being prepared for opening.

Recreation – Chris reported on the following:

- The ice skating season ended a day early this year. On Sunday, March 6 the rink was closed due to a warm, sunny 69° day. Ice skating was well received this season with an attendance of 11,983.
- We are in the process of planning summer programs. The brochure will mail in mid-April. Mail-in registrations will begin the last week of April.
- We are accepting applications for summer employment.

Morton Center – Brenda reported on the following:

- There have been 1,731 registrations as of Friday compared to 1,837 registrations last year at this time, which is a 6% decrease at this point.

- WALLA began their class today. The Library parking garage will be a very welcomed resource for additional parking.
- There are new banners hung at the corners of Columbia St. and Chauncey Ave. There is a set on the corner next to the garage reading Welcome and West Lafayette Public Library. There is a set next to the corner of Morton reading Welcome and Morton Community Center. People have noticed them and commented on how nice they look.
- Art students of Jeannette Rehmel will be displaying their work from April 14-May 12 in rooms 106 and 108. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, April 14 from 7-9pm.

Beautification & Stewardship – Brian reported on the following:

- Winter landscape clean up is well under way. Rodent chewing heavily affected the Wabash Landing Gateway. All crabapple trees and many shrubs had bark chewed off.
- In the process of updating the Lilly Nature Center volunteers and their entrance codes to the building. There are still approximately forty active volunteers. The Lilly Nature Center Volunteer Appreciation Party is Monday, April 10 from 7-9pm at Lilly Nature Center, noting Park Board members, Council members, and staff is all welcomed to come and show their appreciation to the volunteers.
- The Master Naturalist Program at Lilly Nature Center will be having its last program tonight. This particular training session was strictly, for the volunteers of the Lilly Nature Center so all volunteers will now have had the same training. Future volunteers will be required to participate in the Master Naturalist training rather than just the Master Gardner program. The Master Naturalist Program for the public will take place at a later date.

Old Business

Farmers Market

Joe noted that we have had an overwhelming response for individuals interested in participating in the Farmers Market. He introduced Joe Borman who gave an update on the participants scheduled for the market this year. Mr. Borman discussed the various aspects of the event and distributed handouts showing the layout of the grounds for the market vendors.

Blessed Sacrament Lease Agreement

Pennie presented the lease agreement for use of the softball field located on Blessed Sacrament's property and its terms for the Parks and Recreation department. Leon motioned to approve the lease agreement as presented. Mike seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

North West Soccer Club Use Agreement

Pennie presented the lease agreement beginning April 11, noting 350 children have registered to date. Mike motioned to approve the lease agreement as presented. Leon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

New Business

Overlook Landscape Plan

Kim Kastings & Tim Mahan, participants of a group of four students designing the landscaping at the Brown St. Overlook, presented the plan they have designed to date, noting possible revisions might occur. They discussed the various plants and trees in their design for the project. They will continue to work on the project, noting various time constraints as the end of the school year approaches.

West Lafayette School Board

N/A

Wabash River

Mike reported they have not had a meeting since the last time the Park Board met. He also noted the search for a director continues. Joe reported the selection of candidates has narrowed to nine candidates. The interviewing process will consist of phone and personal interviews.

Paula noted the Wabash River Parkway Commission would be meeting on the second Thursday every other month, with the first meeting scheduled for April 14 at Morton Community Center in room 211.

Other

West Lafayette Youth Council Talent Show

Brenda presented information pertaining to the room rental request for the West Lafayette Youth Council that is hosting a talent show on April 22. The Board decided to leave the decision to the Parks staff regarding reducing or waiving fees.

Purchase Orders

N/A

Pay Claims

Leon motioned that claims be paid. Mike seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Presiding Officer

Secretary